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*Agency of Administration*

## **VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Midstate Library Service Center, Berlin**

Members present: Linda Williamson, Chair; Susan R. Bruce; Jim Gish; John Rosenthal; Martha Reid, State Librarian.

Also present: Marti Fiske, Vermont Library Association liaison, and Renee Ancel, Department of Libraries.

### **Call to Order**

Chair Linda Williamson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

### **Minutes**

The minutes for the last Board of Libraries meeting held January 19, 2010, were reviewed and unanimously approved with no modifications.

**Welcome:** Jim Gish of Middlebury was welcomed as a new Board of Libraries member. He gave the attendees a little background of his work with libraries and in the publishing field. He served as a library trustee at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury (2001-2006), and was the president of the board for 4 of those years. Jim works as a book editor of Cengage Learning.

All present introduced themselves and briefly described their work and position on the board. Marti Fiske noted that this was her last meeting as Vermont Library Association (VLA) liaison; Joe Farara, Librarian at Johnson State College, will be the new liaison.

### **Board Reports**

Chair Linda Williamson reported that she and Martha Reid attended a VLA workshop on "Librarian as Social Worker" at Hartland Public Library in April. The panel included Amy Howlett, (Department of Libraries) as well as representatives from state and local social service organizations who explained their services and discussed how librarians can best use their resources.

### **State Librarian's Report:**

Martha Reid distributed a copy of her report and briefly elaborated on the following points:

- Christine Friese, the new Assistant State Librarian, began work on May 3. Christine is a graduate of Bennington College and has an MLS from the University of Illinois and an MA in Italian from Ohio State University. As Assistant State Librarian, Christine is now leading the Library Development Division.
- The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) received news in March of a Sustainable Broadband Adoption grant award from the federal stimulus Broadband

Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The Department of Libraries is a grant partner in the e-Vermont and will work with 12 public libraries in different communities to help develop online services and resources including the expansion and improvement of public computing programs. \$96,000 has been designated to support activities in public libraries. The 12 towns selected for 2010 are: Brighton, Bristol, Canaan, Cambridge, Grand Isle County, Ludlow, Middlesex, Newport, Poultney, Pownal, Sunderland, and West Rutland. Twelve additional communities will receive funding in 2011.

- The Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) has submitted a multi-million dollar Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) application for BTOP grant funds to build a high-capacity fiber middle-mile network in Vermont. The Department of Libraries is one of many partners in this public/private effort to expand fiber connectivity to community anchor institutions, including schools, colleges, public libraries, health care sites and public safety towers. The proposed fiber build will reach 53 public libraries in Windham, Rutland, and Bennington Counties, and at selected locations in the Montpelier and St. Johnsbury areas.

The library portion of this application was supported with logistical and financial assistance from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. If the VTA receives the award, the Gates Foundation will provide \$400,000 in matching funds, along with (1) \$150,000 to create a sustainable centralized e-rate application program at the Department of Libraries, and (2) funds for the Department of Libraries to host a two-day symposium to launch this grant initiative in public libraries. This is the only middle-mile application in Vermont supported by either Governor Jim Douglas or by the Chief Technology Officer in the Vermont Office of Economic Stimulus and Recovery, which is authorized to make such recommendations on behalf of the Legislature as well as the Governor. The grant application is currently in "due diligence" review, which is a hopeful sign that we will eventually win a grant award.

Jim Gish asked Martha Reid the total grant amount of the project and she will send that information to board members.

- The last day of service for the Northeast Regional Library in St. Johnsbury will be July 3. Department of Libraries staff is now planning for weeding and merging the two regional book collections. Christine Friese is the project manager for this project.

On May 4 Reid met with public and school librarians from the St. Johnsbury area to discuss the closing and listen to their concerns. These librarians expressed their concern about the closing and the negative effect on their services to local citizens and students. They also expressed their strong support for the Department of Libraries (DOL) to offer a statewide delivery system for interlibrary loan, and a statewide integrated library system.

- We received word this month that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has approved our annual LSTA report submitted at the end of the 2009 calendar year. James Lonergan, our IMLS representative, announced that he and other team members will be making a site visit to Vermont. We have tentatively set the visit for the first week in July. Board members will need to be part of this process.

## **Other Business**

1. Martha Reid noted that the current LSTA long-range plan expires at the end of 2012 and that the Board will need to begin work on a new plan in the coming year.

2. Reid provided copies of the following documents to board members:
  - *Vermont Public Library Statistics 2010 Annual Report*
  - *A Manual for Vermont Library Trustees* (newly revised 5<sup>th</sup> edition)
  - *The Law of Public Libraries* (recently updated by the Office of Secretary of State)
3. The Department of Libraries has purchased for 2010 a continued public performance motion picture license for public libraries from Movie Licensing, USA. This year the project is funded entirely with federal LSTA funds.
4. The Department of Libraries will head a task force that includes the Vermont Library Association and the Green Mountain Library Consortium to explore options for a statewide courier service to expedite interlibrary loan delivery.
5. DOL staff is currently working on the mailing for Resource Sharing grants (federal LSTA) to public and academic librarians. The grants are based on the number of interlibrary loan requests sent to individual libraries. The total amount of these FFY2010 grants is \$42,283.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting will take place on July 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Location will be determined at a later date.

Submitted by,  
Martha Reid, State Librarian  
Board Secretary